

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
MITSUSHIGE MURATA, ET AL. ) : Examiner: LESLIE AUGUST NICHOLSON III  
Application No.: 10/784,258 ) : Group Art Unit: 3651  
Filed: February 24, 2004 ) : Confirmation No.: 1242  
For: SHEET HANDLING APPARATUS AND ) December 22, 2006  
IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS :  
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**Mail Stop Amendment**  
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the document listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. This reference was cited in an official communication in a counterpart Chinese application issued on September 29, 2006. The concise explanation of the relevance of this item is found in the attached Abstract thereof.

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

Each item of information in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing date of this Statement.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be considered by the Examiner and that an initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

/Gary M. Jacobs/

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\*EXAMINER Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form.

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